



Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration | 6601 Ritchie Highway, N.E. | Glen Burnie, MD 21062 | www.mva.maryland.gov

Maryland's Cell Phone Use Ban (TR 21–1124.2)

- Effective October 1, 2013, Maryland's cell phone law now prohibits a driver from using a handheld cell phone while a motor vehicle is in motion.
- **This is a primary offense.** Law enforcement officers can stop a driver solely for using a handheld cell phone – no other offense is needed.
- Drivers will receive a fine (including court costs) of:
 - \$ 83 – first offense
 - \$140 – second offense
 - \$160 – third & subsequent offense
- ***Why do we have this new law?***
 - Nationally, 80% of vehicle crashes involve some sort of driver inattention.¹
 - On average, more than 30,000 people in Maryland are injured annually as a result of distracted driving crashes.²

Maryland's Seat Belt Law (TR 22–412.3)

Effective October 1, 2013 Maryland has a **primary seat belt law for front seat occupants AND a secondary seat belt law for back seat occupants.**

- Tickets can be issued to drivers and front seat passengers even if no other violation is observed.
- Each person that is not buckled up (driver and passenger) may receive a ticket (including court costs) of \$83 for not wearing a seatbelt.
- In the case where any passenger under the age of 16 years of age is not buckled up, the driver may receive a ticket for each offense. For instance, if a driver is stopped and not wearing a seat belt, and a passenger under the age of 16 is also not restrained, the driver may receive an adult seat belt ticket (including court costs) of \$83 for himself and a ticket (including court costs) of \$83 for the passenger.

¹ NHTSA, Distracted Driving and Driver, Roadway, and Environmental Factors

² University of Maryland, Baltimore - National Study Center for Trauma and EMS





Maryland's Seat Belt Law (continued)

- **Why did Maryland move to an all seating position seat belt law?**
 - **Seat belts save lives.** Motorists are 75% less likely to be killed in a rollover crash if they are buckled up.³
 - For the period 2007-2011, 68,151 backseat occupants of passenger vehicles were involved in a reported crash in Maryland. Of these, there were 127 fatalities, 75% of which were reported to be unbelted. Additionally, there were 6,243 occupants who sustained a moderate or severe injury. Those reported as unbelted were 67% more likely to sustain a moderate to fatal injury.⁴
 - Belted drivers were 50% more likely to sustain a moderate to fatal injury as the result of a motor vehicle crash when the occupant seated directly behind them was unbelted as compared to drivers who were seated in front of a belted occupant.⁴

YOUNG DRIVER CRASHES

- Our data shows that in Maryland, for every 100 drivers aged 16 & 17 in Maryland, 8 are likely to be involved in a crash in the next year - 2 of those will result in a serious injury or fatality.⁴
- According to 2012 data, in Maryland drivers ages 16-20 were 50 percent more likely to be involved in a crash when compared to drivers ages 25-29.⁴

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ***Park the Phone Before You Drive!*** Talking on a handheld cell phone or texting is a leading source of driver distraction.
- ***Manage Your Time.*** Driving is not the time to talk or text on a cell phone.
- ***Drive Defensively.*** Just because you don't drive distracted doesn't mean that others won't.
- ***Ride Responsibly.*** If you are a passenger and a driver is using a handheld cell phone, ask them to pull over or wait until they arrive at the destination. Avoid causing distractions as well.
- ***Buckle Up Every Time, Day and Night, In Every Seat!*** Motorists should buckle up every time they go out, both day and night, and ***in all seating positions.***
 - Wearing a seat belt is your best defense against unsafe drivers. Buckling up is the single most important step you can take to save your life in the event of a crash.
 - Law enforcement agencies across Maryland are prepared to ticket anyone not buckled up... no warnings and no excuses.
 - ***Set a good example!*** Adults who use a handheld cell phone while driving or who don't buckle up are sending children the message that those behaviors are acceptable.

³ NHTSA, 2013 Click it or Ticket Fact Sheet

⁴ University of Maryland, Baltimore - National Study Center for Trauma and EMS

